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Thursday, February 23, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

BLACK THOUGHT DEBUTS NEW SHOWCASE

But it's not music-focused. 14

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ICE AGE

An immigration lawyer is troubled by Trump's aggressive deportation directives. 6-7

GETTY IMAGES

TRANSGENDER BATHROOM RULE REVERSAL EXPECTED

1 President Donald Trump's administration was expected to revoke landmark guidelines issued to public schools in defense of transgender student rights. The draft reverses former Democratic President Barack Obama's signature initiative on transgender rights, which instructed public schools to allow transgender students to use the bathrooms matching their chosen gender identity. "I would expect further guidance to come out on that today," White House spokesman Sean Spicer told a news briefing on Wednesday. The draft document could be subject to change before it is sent to schools across the country. Its stated purpose is to withdraw the guidance of May 13, 2016, while Trump's Justice and Education departments continue to study the legal issues involved. REUTERS

TRUMP TO PLAY TWICE AS MUCH GOLF AS OBAMA

2 Despite responsibilities like filling hundreds of still-vacant federal job openings, working with congress to implement his many campaign promises and keeping America safe as commander in chief, Donald Trump has spent one fifth of his days as president so far on the golf course. By comparison, Barack Obama — according to Mark Knoller, a White House correspondent for CBS News — played 333 rounds of golf while serving as president. Of his 2,922 days in office, that means he played golf just around 11 percent of the time, or one-tenth. Trump is on pace to play twice as much golf as Obama. Why does this matter? The president certainly has the right, as does anyone else living in a free country, to engage in whatever leisure activities he prefers. But Trump is a hypocrite. Just check his Twitter. EVAN MACY

BELICHICK MAY TESTIFY IN HERNANDEZ TRIAL

3 Patriots head coach Bill Belichick and offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels are on a list of potential witnesses in the murder trial for former tight end and already-convicted murderer Aaron Hernandez. The coaches were among the more than 280 names mentioned on a list of potential defense witnesses. Belichick, McDaniels and Miami Dolphins center Mike Pouncey are listed with other people that Hernandez's lawyers may want to speak with and "reserves the right to add them later." Another document released Wednesday included transcripts of calls between Hernandez and Pouncey in which Hernandez describes people who would "try" (disrespect) him. Prosecutors want the calls to be submitted as evidence, according to WCVB. ERIN TIERNAN

ASTRONOMERS FIND SEVEN EARTH-SIZE PLANETS

5 Astronomers have found a nearby solar system with seven Earth-size planets, three of which circle their parent star at the right distance for liquid surface water, raising the prospect of life, research published on Wednesday showed. The star, known as TRAPPIST-1, is a small, dim celestial body in the constellation Aquarius. It is located about 40 light years away from Earth. Researchers said the proximity of the system, combined with the proportionally large size of its planets compared to the small star, make it a good target for follow-up studies. They hope to scan the planets' atmospheres for possible chemical fingerprints of life. REUTERS

This artist's concept shows what each of the TRAPPIST-1 planets may look like, based on available data about their sizes, masses and orbital distances. NASA/IPL-CALTECH

This illustration shows the possible surface of TRAPPIST-1f, one of the newly discovered planets in the TRAPPIST-1 system. Scientists using the Spitzer Space Telescope and ground-based telescopes have discovered that there are seven Earth-size planets in the system. NASA/IPL-CALTECH

DYLANN ROOF STOPPED AT SECOND CHURCH

4 Dylann Roof drove to another African-American church after killing nine black parishioners in Charleston, South Carolina, U.S. prosecutors said in newly unsealed court documents. Roof was sentenced to death after being found guilty of charges connected to the June 17, 2015, massacre at a Bible study meeting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. In a September court filing released on Tuesday, federal prosecutors said that after the shooting, Roof fled the church with his gun and drove about 20 miles to Branch AME Church in Summerville. That church also has a predominantly African-American congregation and held a Bible study meeting on the night Roof drove to it. GPS evidence from Roof's car showed he slowed and then stopped at the church for two to three minutes, according to prosecutors. REUTERS

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CRISTABELLE TUMOLA, WEB EDITOR Just when you thought Hello Kitty had done every Hello Kitty theme possible — they thought of one more. The world's first Hello Kitty supermarket just opened in Hong Kong, offering about 250 branded foods and other products inspired by the famed Sanrio character. Hello Kitty even reportedly acts as the official "store manager." If you can't make it to China by May, when the pop-up store closes, then take a tour here: **metro.us/viral**

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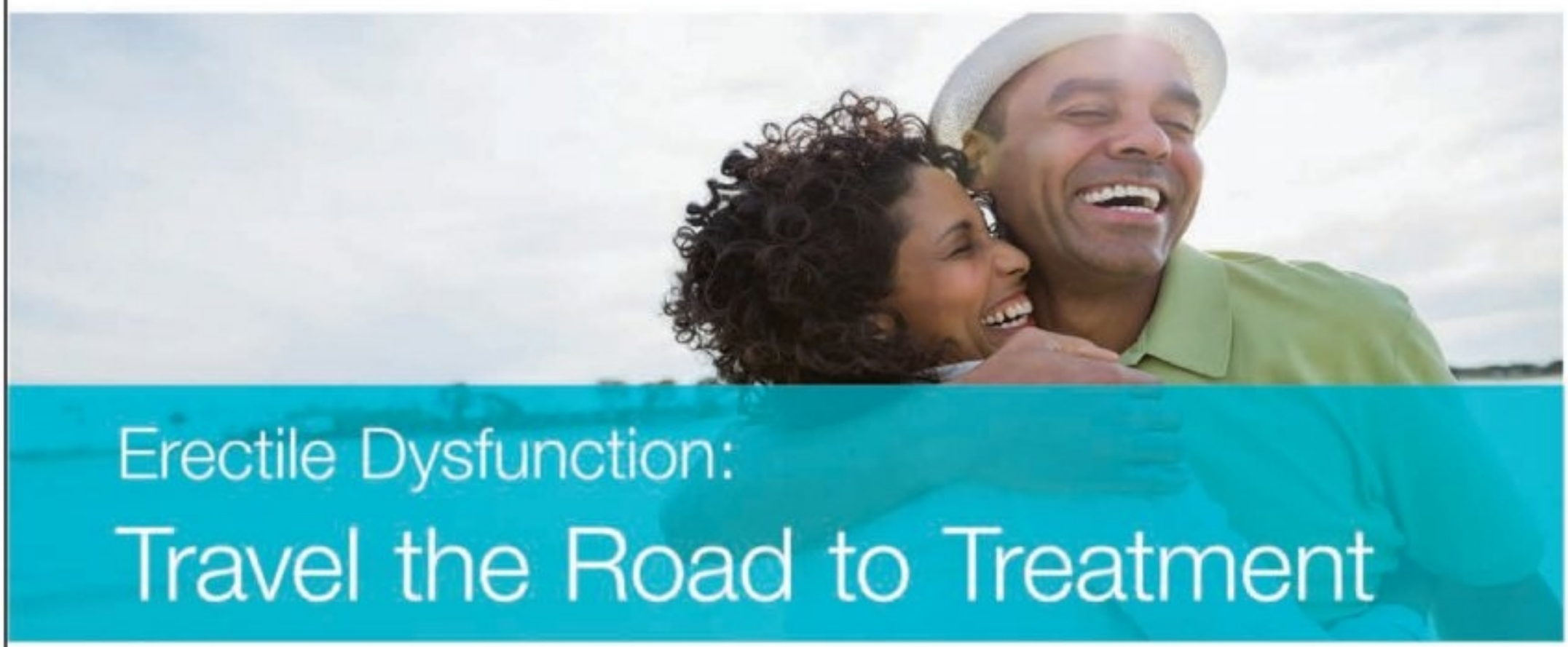

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Mayor Jim Kenney MICHELLE GUSTAFSON

Kenney joins US mayors to warn of doom and gloom from Obamacare repeal

City leaders across the country speak out against GOP plans.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Thousands of citizens could lose health coverage, face new risks to their health and face other obstacles if the GOP and President Donald Trump successfully undo Barack Obama's signature health care legislation, city leaders from across the country warned Wednesday.

More than 100 mayors, including Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, signed a bipartisan letter to congressional leaders urging them to save the Affordable Care Act (ACA), widely known as Obamacare.

Philly has 220,000 residents currently on Obamacare, roughly one-sixth of the city's population. Mayor de Blasio said in New York City there are two million who could lose coverage if a repeal goes through.

"We must send a resounding message to Washington: That is unacceptable," de Blasio said. "Power doesn't reside in Washington, D.C., alone. It's in every city and town in America."

Beyond the insured, a repeal of Obamacare would also hurt Philadelphia's Department of Health, which receives $7.7 million in funding through the ACA for such purposes as immunizing infants against diseases like meningitis and preventing lead poisoning.

"The ACA protects everyone in Philadelphia, insured or not, from a wide range of public health threats," Philadelphia Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley said. "We can't afford to repeal it."

Without the ACA, Philly will also have to cut significant mental health and substance abuse programs.

"It would be terribly disheartening to witness thousands of people lose access to vital behavioral health services," said David Jones, acting commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, "especially at a time when our city and nation is battling an opioid epidemic that is tearing families and communities apart and ending countless lives."

Congressional Republicans and the president are reportedly working toward a full repeal of Obamacare, but the exact timeline for when the repeal will take effect remains fuzzy.

By the numbers

220,000
PHILADELPHIANS INSURED UNDER OBAMACARE

160,000
ON MEDICAID

60,000
ON ACA MARKETPLACE

$7.7 MILLION
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Source: SEPTA

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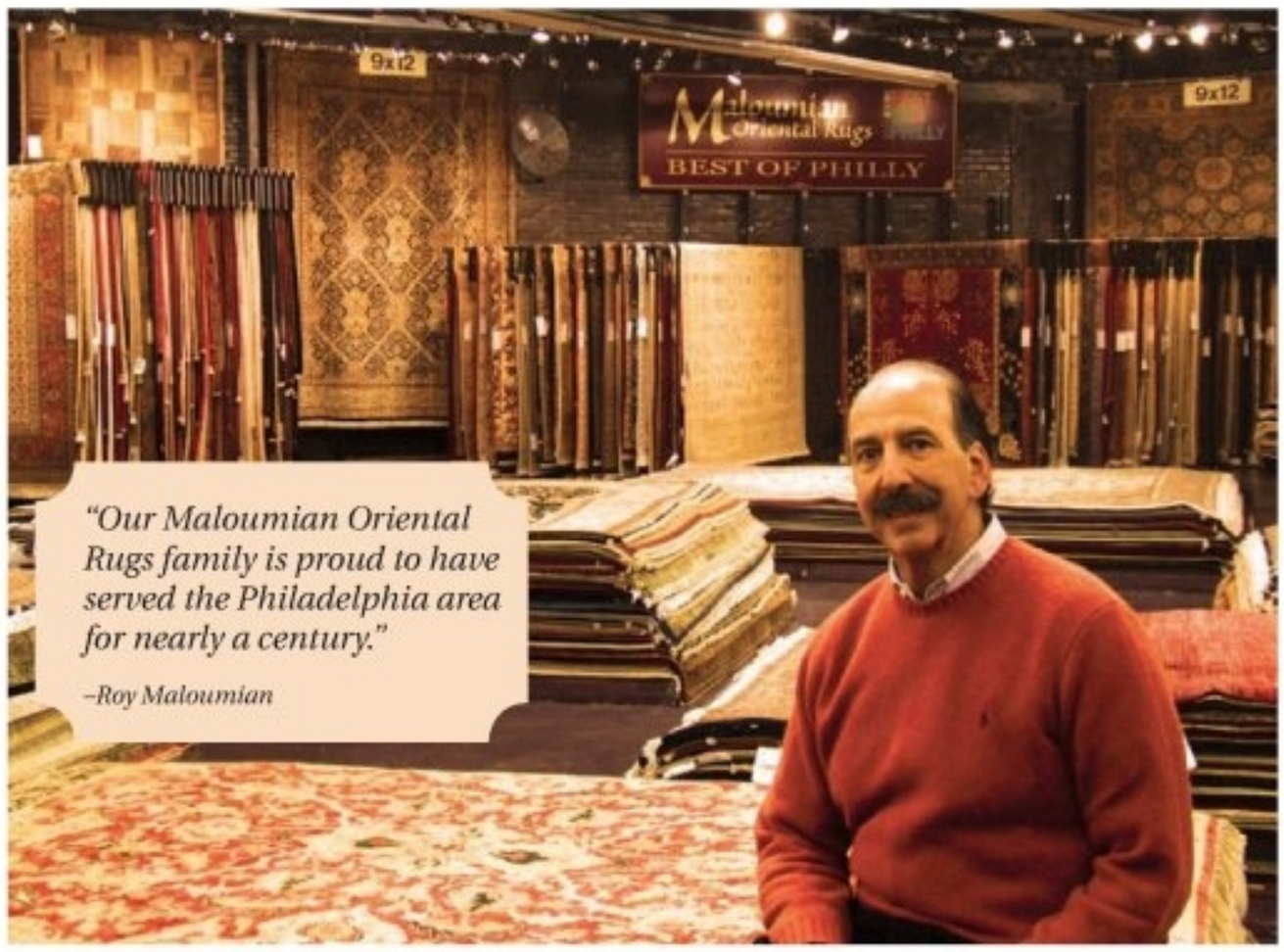
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Immigrants prepare to be unshackled and set free from the Adelanto Detention Facility on in Adelanto, California. GETTY IMAGES

Undocumented neighbors
Undocumented Immigrants by the Numbers, according to the Pew Research Center
New York City metro area, which includes suburbs in northern New Jersey, western Connecticut and northeastern Pennsylvania: 1,150,000
Philadelphia metro area, which includes suburbs in Wilmington, Delaware, and Camden, New Jersey: 160,000
Philadelphia alone: 50,000

4 Details of directives

Here are the major takeaways and how these new regulations will affect not only immigrants but also taxpayers.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
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The Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday laid out guidelines for what appears to be an aggressive crackdown on undocumented immigrants — an approach championed by Donald Trump while he campaigned for the presidency.

Kari Hong, an expert in immigration law and professor at Boston College Law School, details four actions she finds most troubling:

1 Criminality

The focus of President Barack Obama's immigration policy was to prioritize deporting undocumented immigrants who committed "serious crimes," but these new directions "eliminate that divide," Hong said.

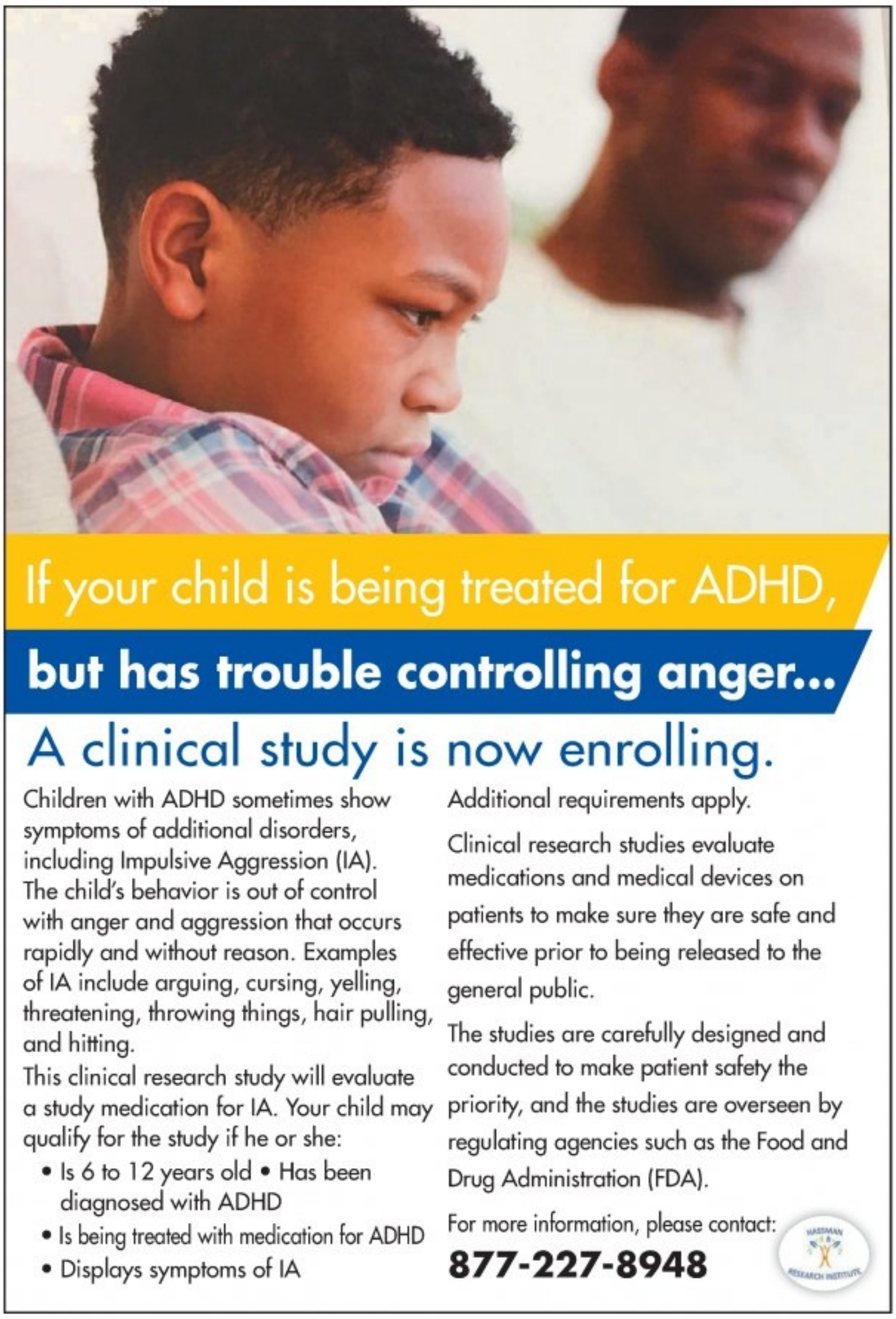
"Anyone now is a priority if they have committed any crime, including misdemeanors and infractions, or committed conduct that could be a crime, as determined by immigration officers," she said. That means at least eight million people are now designated as a "top priority" for deportation, including people who have not committed crimes, Hong said.

2 New border and immigration officers

The Department of Homeland Security intends to hire 5,000 new Border Patrol agents and 10,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, for which the salaries alone would cost at least $50 million, Hong said.

The agency is also asking to have state and local governments identify and detain noncitizens. This would be voluntary, yet experts fear that cities and towns will cooperate out of fear of retaliation.

Many states and cities have previously opted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President Donald Trump has carried through with campaign promises to crack down on undocumented immigrants. GETTY IMAGES

Guatemalan deportee Eric Perez, 23, kisses his daughter Kimberly, 18 months. GETTY IMAGES

Trump's new worry lawyer

out of this partnership because "over half of the people swept up didn't have any criminal convictions, and local and state governments were on the hook for detention costs that ran into the millions while ICE figured out what to do" with those people, Hong said. Local municipalities were never reimbursed by the federal government.

3 Immigration hearing

"As a practical matter, under existing law, everyone is entitled to a hearing," Hong said.

These are necessary, as half of the people who appear before an immigration judge are found to have a right to stay in the U.S., she added.

The new guidelines would circumvent that process.

Currently, about a half-million people are awaiting hearings, Hong said, adding that there is a three-year wait for them.

Homeland Security has said nothing about hiring more immigration lawyers. If another eight million undocumented immigrants now considered "priority" are added to the existing backlog, it could take up to 50 years to give everyone a hearing, Hong said.

The Trump administration said that they will expand "expedited removal" to avoid this. That process is intended for someone who was previously deported and re-entered the U.S., Hong said, not for someone who has never gone through the hearing process.

4 Detention centers and public cost

Taxpayers currently contribute $2 billion a year for the detention of about 400,000 noncitizens, Hong said.

"If we increase that for every new million noncitizens detained, we're looking at detention costs of $5 billion, all going to for-profit, private companies," she said.

This increased cost to the taxpayer will come at the same time that money contributed by immigrants will be leaving our economy.

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Carjack victim allegedly exaggerated story to make police respond faster

Marcus Fletcher PPD

A pizza deliveryman was carjacked at gunpoint but thought he needed to add something more to the story to get Philadelphia police to investigate, authorities said.

So he concocted a story about a 4-year-old nephew who was in the backseat of the car at the time two men made off with the vehicle, according to authorities.

Now, 22-year-old Marcus Fletcher is facing misdemeanor charges for allegedly filing a false report after a police search ended with the discovery of his stolen car with no child inside.

"[Fletcher] gave multiple accounts of how the robbery occurred and was unable to give a detailed description of the child who was abducted or his parents," according to the police report. "After several hours of police investigation, the male admitted to lying about the child being abducted."

Fletcher, of Olney, had called police around 10:25 p.m. on Monday to report his green Ford Escort was stolen at gunpoint while he was in the middle of making a delivery, authorities said.

Detectives who talked to Fletcher later discovered he made up the story because he was dissatisfied with their response the last time he was the victim of a robbery.

SAM NEWHOUSE

Philadelphia soda tax revenues fall short of first-month expectations

Store owners warn of layoffs; the mayor calls that a threat on a tax that will slightly reduce their "seven-figure bonuses."

ALEXIS SACHDEV
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Philadelphia's tax on sugary drinks has been in effect for only two months, but preliminary estimates of its revenue-generating capability aren't too sweet.

The city is reporting less-than-expected revenues, and some wholesalers and store owners say they may have to lay off workers to compensate for lost profits.

Philly officials are projecting that $2.3 million will be collected from the 1.5-cent-per-ounce tax on sodas and other sweetened drinks in January. That is only 30 percent of what the tax was expected to generate each month in order to hit the annual goal of $91 million, 6ABC reported.

Early projections say Philly's soda tax revenues fell 70 percent below monthly predictions. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

To hit that mark, the city would have to collect $7.6 million each month. City Hall remains confident that it will hit its annual goal, however, telling news outlets that distributors stockpiled soda and other sugary drinks in advance of the Jan. 1 tax implementation.

But supermarkets and distributors are reporting drops in sales of between 30 and 50 percent, and are considering layoffs to offset their losses, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported. The owner of six ShopRite grocery stores plans to let go 300 employees this spring, though it was unclear if that could be entirely attributed to the fallen revenue from the soda tax.

Mayor Jim Kenney, who signed the tax into law last year, criticized plans to shed workers.

"I didn't think it was possible for the soda industry to be any greedier," Kenney told the Inquirer. "… They are so committed to stopping this tax from spreading to other cities that they are not only passing the tax they should be paying onto their customer, they are actually willing to threaten working men and women's jobs rather than marginally reduce their seven-figure bonuses."

Final revenue figures for January won't be available until next month.

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Dozens defy deadline to leave Dakota pipeline protest camp

A few dozen demonstrators opposed to the Dakota Access pipeline defied a Wednesday deadline to leave a protest camp they have occupied for months to demand an end to construction of the project, saying they were prepared to be arrested.

President Donald Trump has pushed for the completion of the multibillion-dollar pipeline since he took office last month, despite objections from Native Americans and environmental activists who say it threatens the water resources and sacred land of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

Republican Gov. Doug Burgum and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had set a 2 p.m. CST deadline for protesters to leave the Oceti Sakowin camp, located on Army Corps land in Cannon Ball, North Dakota.

As freezing rain and snow fell, some demonstrators ceremonially burned tents and other structures at the camp in what they said was a tradition before leaving a dwelling place. But others said they were going nowhere.

Around three dozen protesters gathered near the camp entrance as the deadline passed. About 20 police vehicles waited up the road and a few dozen protesters remained in other parts of the camp, a Reuters witness said.

"I feel as though now is the time to stand our ground," said Alethea Phillips, 17, a demonstrator from Michigan who has spent three months at the camp.

Chase Iron Eyes, a Standing Rock Sioux member, said the detention of protesters would not dampen their determination.

"There are a lot of grandmothers, there are a lot of women [at the camp]. ... There are people who have shown up to stand in solidarity with them," he said in a video broadcast. "You can't arrest a movement. You can't arrest a spiritual revolution."

The Oceti Sakowin protest camp on Wednesday in Cannon Ball, North Dakota. GETTY IMAGES

Protesters and law enforcement have clashed multiple times and hundreds of people have been arrested since demonstrations began in August.

The Standing Rock Sioux asked protesters to leave the area in December as they challenged the pipeline plans in court, but some 300 demonstrators had remained. REUTERS

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Amber Tamblyn is having fun with kid's name

News has broken that Amber Tamblyn and husband David Cross have welcomed a baby girl, and honestly I couldn't be more pleased with this announcement.

Tamblyn, 33, shared the news on her Instagram. "David and I are proud to announce the birth of our daughter, Dauphinoise Petunia Brittany Scheherazade Von Funkinstein Mustard Witch RBG Cross Tamblyn-Bey Jr. #TheFutureIsFemale."

Lots of news outlets are taking this name very seriously, and even suggesting that maybe the nickname Mustard Witch isn't so bad; but Tamblyn and Cross, 52, have a history of being pretty hilarious.

Congratulations to the happy couple, and to RBG Cross Tamblyn-Bey Jr. herself for having the best parents.

Lauryn Hill is now a grandmother

Picture this: It's 1998. Lauryn Hill's debut solo album, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" is changing your entire life. One of your favorite songs is "To Zion," a beautiful and tender ode to Hill's first child. Carlos Santana lends the track an understated lil' twang. You sit in your bedroom, one tear falling down your face in slow motion, thinking, "Man, this song is really, really lovely." Remember that?

Well just in case you want to feel superold, let me tell you something: Lauryn Hill, 41, is a grandmother now, because Zion — the subject of that wonderful song — just had a freaking baby.

It's been 20 years since Hill penned the song, and now her eldest son is 19 years old and a father to his first child. According to Billboard, Zion welcomed his son Zephaniah last week, continuing the family trend of using exotic and deep sounding names from the Bible.

Zion is one of five children between Hill and Rohan Marley. There's also Sarah, Selah, John and Joshua.

Kim Kardashian squashes sex-tape rumors

For some reason, there's a rumor that Kim Kardashian has filmed a new sex tape. According to the Daily Mail, rumors of an "explicit video" starring the 36-year-old reality star were reported by Britain's Mirror newspaper. Apparently the leaked footage is mostly just Kardashian sitting on a bed in some — probably unnecessarily elaborate — lingerie. But her rep told the Daily Mail it's not true: "It's the same old tape." If you somehow don't remember, Kardashian found fame after her sex tape with then-boyfriend Ray J was leaked and distributed. It's the whole reason we've been blessed with the Kardashian clan as America's most famous, most divisive, most annoying reality-television family. Honestly? We do not thank Kim Kardashian enough. The mother of two has slowly been making her way back on social media after her terrible ordeal in Paris. So yeah, I don't think a sex tape is really in the cards for her right now. She's kind of moved beyond that, don't you think?

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Let's all binge-watch 'Supernatural'

Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles have spent a dozen years battling monsters on "Supernatural." THE CW

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
legionofleia.com

I've been binge-watching "Supernatural" for a project. I used to watch it live, years ago, but sort of fell off of the train. It's been lovely to rediscover what I'd missed. So I wanted to write about the show that lately has made my evenings a blast.

I've talked before about the joy of binge-watching old shows you used to love. Having "Friends" on in the background is soothing. I know the lines. I've heard all the jokes. And yet I still laugh — the familiarity is relaxing in a world that is kind of a mess. With "Supernatural" though, I've got a ton of seasons I haven't seen and a world I can completely immerse myself in.

If you haven't watched it yet, it's the story of brothers Sam and Dean (Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles), whose mother was killed by a demon when they were little. The kids were trained by their father to hunt and destroy demons, ghosts and other supernatural creatures. (It's gotten a lot more complicated over the years, but that's the basic idea.)

I wrote last week about how the 22-episode model doesn't really work anymore. Though there are definitely filler episodes, this show has a depth to its mythology that few others have. Some seasons were procedurals. Some have a much deeper through line. The relationships have had time to build up over the years, and 12 seasons in, it feels like you've known these guys forever.

There is something about a show with a vast mythology that gets people hooked. "Supernatural" has urban legends, ghost stories, angels and other things with sometimes thousands of years of history. Some of them are stories you might have heard from grandparents. Some of the ghosts and ghouls are new. Either way, it's a show full of fun facts that stick in your head. You can take a deep dive into these things and spend half the night on Wikipedia.

It's been fun taking a break from the world, peeling back the fictional layers of reality and getting to know characters that have been around for years. So, who wants to marathon it with me?

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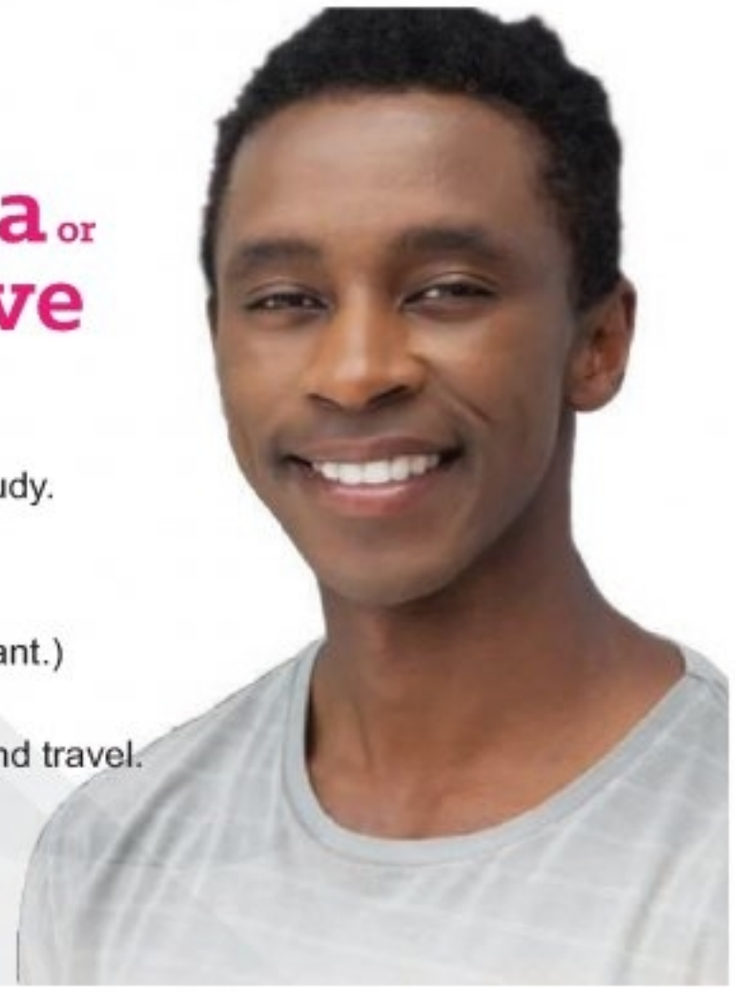

Allison Williams'

Allison Williams plays a woman who doesn't tell her parents that her current boyfriend (Daniel Kaluuya) is black in Jordan Peele's horror film "Get Out." JUSTIN LUBIN

The "Girls" alum finally gets to break into the movies with "Get Out."

MATT PRIGGE
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TV isn't just a huge time-suck for viewers; same goes for TV actors. Because she's spent six seasons as Marnie on "Girls," Allison Williams hasn't had the chance to do any movies. At least her first is "Get Out," the directorial debut of Jordan Peele (of "Key & Peele") and a bracing and scathing film about race in America in the form of a terrifying horror movie. She plays Rose, a woman taking her boyfriend, Chris (Daniel Kaluuya), to meet her parents in the suburbs. They don't know he's black, and pretty soon, Chris begins to suspect something very, very weird is afoot.

How was making your first movie?

The biggest difference was realizing I only had about 15 minutes total to introduce an audience to a person, rather than six years to ease them into someone like Marnie. Those first scenes became really important, just in terms of giving people a good sense of who she is very quickly. Which sounds really

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life after Marnie

obvious if you've done a million movies, but for me, it was a bizarre challenge.

Were there other unexpected challenges being in your first movie?

The finality of it is really weird. With "Girls" I was always somewhat comforted knowing that we'll be back next year, can't wait to see what happens with them with time. But we [the "Get Out" crew] are still very close, especially because the movie is a bit risky. It was kind of unique to go through together.

Another big first for you is that it's a big movie, meaning it plays theaters, not on TVs or personal devices or however people want to see it.

I think a movie like this is best consumed in a group of strangers in a theater. On "Girls," I've always been pretty realistic about the ways people consume it. My emphasis on seeing it live, because it's not like a "Red Wedding" spoilery show, is much more intense now that I'm working with material that should be seen in a theater when it comes out — not on your laptop or your iPad at some point. That's not obvious immediately, because ["Get Out"] doesn't have a lot of CGI or effects. It's more about the communal experience if anything. If you're going to watch it at home, have people over as a group. Then you have the call-and-response with the movie itself.

GETTY IMAGES

How did you react to seeing yourself on a big screen?

I got really emotional when I saw the Universal logo. Which surprised me, because it just means, in my associative brain, that it's an official movie. [Laughs] I was like, "Oh my gosh, I'm in a real honest-to-God movie!" It's sounds really weird, but that was my reaction to it.

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things to do

Black Thought: I don't want to be the next 'Def Comedy Jam'

Tariq "Black Thought" Trotter of The Roots debuts a comedy showcase tonight. PROVIDED

The Roots co-founder debuts a new comedy series in Philly.

JENNIFER LOGUE
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Tariq "Black Thought" Trotter of The Roots is launching a new performance series in Philly this week, and the focus isn't music. The legendary emcee has teamed up with Quincy Harris of Fox 29's "The Q Show" for "Delirious," a comedy showcase highlighting buzzworthy touring comedians as well as Philly talent on the rise.

Thursday night's show at Punchline Philly will include standup from Seth Herzog, Janelle James, Seaton Smith, Jamar Neighbors and Michelle Wolf. There will even be music from DJ J.Period and Black Thought himself.

We chatted with the hip-hop frontman about what inspired him to step into the comedy space and why "the darkest hours produce the best art."

What are your hopes for "Delirious"?

I feel like this show has a lot of potential to evolve into something special. I don't want to be the next "Def Comedy Jam" — I don't want to be the next anything. The fact that I'm doing this is about firsts. I want to present something original. I want people to come out and enjoy themselves because these are trying times. Historically, the darkest hours have always produced the best art.

You're known for being a musician. What sparked your interest in comedy?

Having worked on "Late Night" and "The Tonight Show" for the past eight years, I do comedy every day so I'm always around lots of comedians. We're a few floors down from "SNL" so I get to interact with them. I've been doing a recurring bit with Seth Herzog of "The Tonight Show" at a place in New York City called The Slipper Room for the past year or so. I sat in on a couple of Jeff Ross' comedy "Roast Battles" and yeah, it's something I decided I wanted to do.

Do you see parallels between music and comedy?

Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. There's countless parallels between comedy and music, as there are with any of the arts. The arts is the arts, and you know what changes is the medium. Sometimes the medium evolves over time. In my case, I started off as a visual artist then went into creative writing then went into music and then into acting and now I'm dabbling in the world of comedy. The tools may change, but the artist remains the artist.

Quincy Harris of "The Q Show" on Fox 29 to co-host. PROVIDED

How did you and Quincy connect for this?

We're longtime friends. Quincy is a not only a Philadelphia radio legend, but also a national radio legend. He's always championed The Roots and championed my personal brand and vice versa. We [The Roots] were the first guests on "The Q Show" on the first day.

What makes great comedy?

The delicate balance of being able to make a social commentary, being able to laugh at oneself, using real life situations, while also transcending race, gender and age.

If you go:

"Delirious"
Thursday, Feb. 23
10:15 p.m., $15
Punchline Philly
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punchlinephilly.com

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MUSIC

Ron Gallo

Nashville-by-way-of-Philly singer-songwriter Ron Gallo returns home in the midst of a nine-consecutive-days tour to promote his latest album, "Heavy Meta." The work is a louder, edgier offering from the afro'd garage rocker, who sings about everything from self-medication ("Kill the Medicine Man") to crazy girlfriends ("Young Lady, You're Scaring Me"). It's an excellent listen from a local guy who has all the makings of hitting the big time.
Feb. 24, 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
Creep Records Store
1050 N. Hancock St.
$10, creeprecords.com

Harlem Quartet + Arturo Stable

To celebrate Black History Month, LiveConnections brings together New York's acclaimed Harlem Quartet and Latin jazz percussionist Arturo Stable for an evening of tunes that blends Mozart compositions with sensual rhythms from Stable's native Cuba. Bet that's a combination you never thought of.
Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.
World Cafe Live
3025 Walnut St.
$25, liveconnections.org

"Fire in My Bones: A Gospel Jubilee"

Cookie Diorio — one of the first gospel-singing drag queens in the country — reprises her popular Fringe hit "Fire in My Bones: A Gospel Jubilee" this Saturday evening in Germantown. In the show, she takes on a songbook of soul-awakening traditional spirituals to highlight her unique experience navigating life as a gay, black person of faith. This is a benefit for local LGBTQ youth center, The Attic.
Feb. 25, 6 p.m.
Unitarian Society of Germantown
6511 Lincoln Drive
$20, cookiediorio.com

Os Mutantes

Brazilian psych-rockers Os Mutantes return stateside for their first U.S. tour since the summer of 2013. Philadelphia is one of only a handful of stops on the outing, which promises to be a musical journey through nearly five decades of tunes from a group that got its start in the mid-1960s by helping birth a genre of music called "tropicalia."
Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Trocadero
1003 Arch St.
$25, thetroc.com

THEATER

"Leper + Chip"

Inis Nua Theatre Company offers up a modern adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet" in the American premiere of "Leper + Chip." The pub play, set in a poor neighborhood of Dublin, centers around a boy and girl who meet and fall in love after landing on opposite ends of a tussle at a party. After that, it's one frantic ride as they look for ways to escape the madness and build a life together.
Through March 5
The Drake
305 S. Hicks St.
$25-$35, inisnuatheatre.org

"Shitheads"

Azuka, the theater troupe dedicated to "telling the stories of outcasts and underdogs," takes audiences to a struggling bike shop in lower Manhattan in its latest production — a world premiere by Philly's Douglas Williams. The story catches up with passionate store manager Alex, who tests out a crazy idea as a last attempt to save the shop he loves.
Feb. 25-March 12
The Drake
302 S. Hicks St.
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azukatheatre.org

THEATER

"Lost Girls"

Theatre Exile's latest is a perfect follow-up to the recent Women's March. It follows three generations of working-class women striving to make it in a world that keeps pushing them down. The play is a Philadelphia premiere penned by American playwright John Pollono, who also wrote soon-to-be-released Jake Gyllenhaal vehicle "Stronger."
Through March 12
Studio X
1340 S. 13th St.
$10-$40, theatreexile.org

VISUAL ART

"Person of the Crowd: The Contemporary Art of Flanerie"

The latest special exhibition at The Barnes spotlights how artists from around the world used their cities to accurately and sometimes controversially depict modern urban life throughout the 20th century. Browse thought-provoking works by folks like Marina Abramovic, Vito Acconci, Eleanor Antin and Zhang Huan that raised awareness around issues ranging from homelessness to gentrification. The show officially kicks off with a soiree at The Barnes on Feb. 25 from 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
Feb. 25-May 22
The Barnes Foundation
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$25, barnesfoundation.org

PODCAST

"Ask Me Another" with Amy Sedaris

"Strangers With Candy" comedian Amy Sedaris joins the crew of popular NPR podcast "Ask Me Another" for a live recording at Glenside's Keswick Theatre. The show is a rambunctious blending of quizzo-style trivia, comedy and music. As always, host Ophira Eisenberg emcees the evening, and musician Jonathan Coulton provides the tunes.
Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Keswick Theatre
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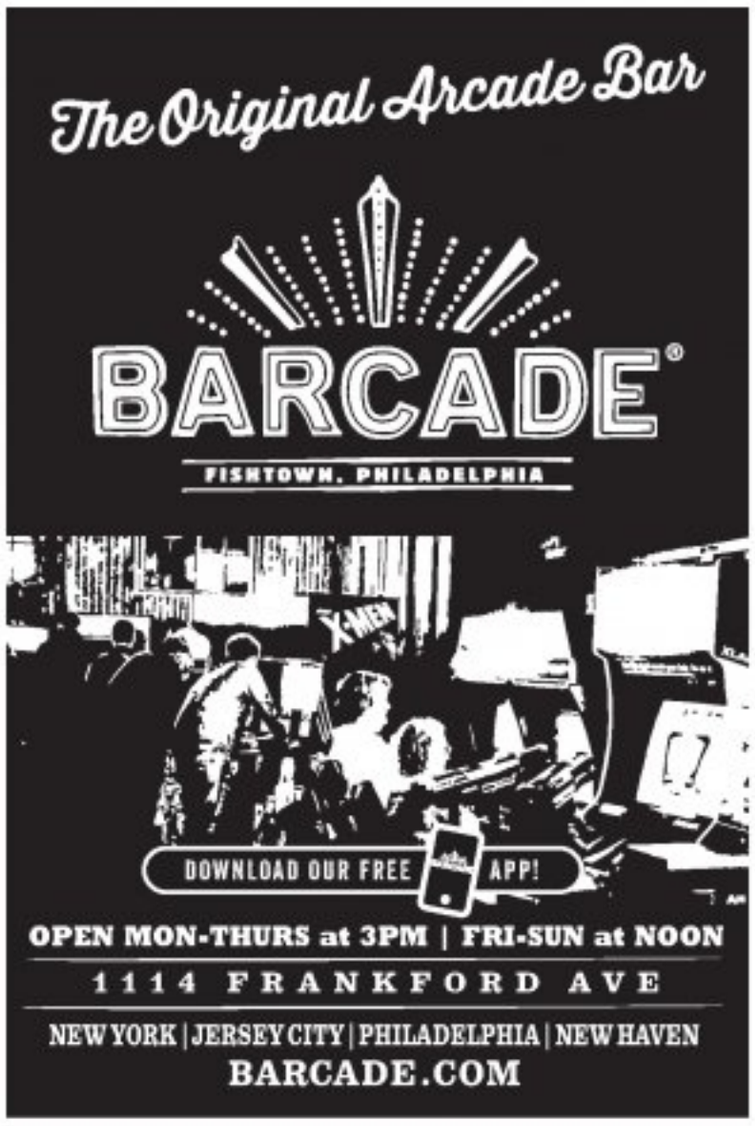
keswicktheatre.com

JOSH MIDDLETON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Southern style

The lower half of Thailand is a trove of natural treasures.

Fodor's Travel

These southwestern Thailand hot spots may be less-traveled than better-known (and crowded!) Phuket, but that's all the more reason to make this your next vacation destination.

Tup Island's main attraction is a sand bar you can use to explore the island next door at low tide. GETTY IMAGES

Tup Island

It may look like a lot of the islands you'll find in southern Thailand, with pristine white sand surrounded by turquoise water. But low tide reveals a sand bar that connects it to a neighboring island, which you can easily walk across while experiencing the ocean lapping at your feet from two directions. Accessible by boat from Ao Nang in the Krabi province, Tup Island is not to be missed.

Railay Beach

This is one of the most beautiful beaches in Thailand. Located on a peninsula between Krabi and Ao Nang, the beach is accessible only by boat due to the steep karst rock surrounding it — once there, a stroll through the magnificent and cavernous limestone walkway is a must. There's also an area for rock climbing, and several nearby hotel restaurants.

Dim sum

Trang's cuisine is unique compared with the rest of Thailand, thanks to the influx of Chinese immigrants in the 18th century. Today, this influence is most obvious in Trang's abundance of dim sum restaurants. At Pong O Cha restaurant, hungry diners can browse display cases filled with samples of all the delectable dishes on the menu like roasted pork, steamed buns and shumai.

Emerald Cave

Located on the west side of Koh Mook is the extraordinary Emerald Cave. Accessible only during a calm low tide, visitors swim through a dark craggy tunnel to get to the cave's hidden gem: a secret beach surrounded by lush cliffs and an emerald lagoon. Time your visit carefully, as high tide or bad weather will have you stuck waiting on the lagoon side or unable to visit completely.

Trang Night Market

Culinary delights in Trang don't end with dim sum. If you're adventurous (and even if you're not), a trip to the Weekend Night Market is worth your time. Held right in front of the town's train station, this market's purveyors are more than happy to oblige your indulgences. From fresh fruits to crispy fried taro cakes and brightly colored jelly candies shaped like rubber duckies, the market has something for everyone. There's even a stall hawking fresh sushi. Some sellers speak English if you have questions about what's on the menu, and many of the stalls have illustrated signs that communicate the main ingredient.

Trang Night Market
@ WORLDCITIZEN, FLICKR

Koh Kradan

One of the more idyllic islands off the coast of Trang is Koh Kradan. This small island is an ideal destination for a day trip due to its tiny size (only a little less than 2 miles long) and serene setting. It's perfect for swimming or relaxing on the white soft sand. Because the island is off the beaten path, you won't run into many other tourists while visiting, which will allow you to pretend this tropical paradise is all yours.

Anantara Si Kao Spa

For a respite from all the sun and outdoor activities, pamper yourself at Anantara Si Kao resort's rejuvenating spa. The tranquil spa has a wide-ranging menu offering beauty treatments and aromatherapies, but the main reason to visit are the massages.

Snorkeling

With water so clear, bright and inviting, snorkeling in southern Thailand is a must. Many hotels offer excursions to some of the best snorkeling spots just off the nearby islands, such as Koh Kradan and Koh Gai (translated into English it means Chicken Island, named after the unique rock formation that looks like a chicken's head). Your ability to see the colorful and friendly schools of fish that inhabit the oceans here will be dependent on the weather conditions, but a jump into the ocean with snorkeling gear will at least allow you to take in the gorgeous aquatic surroundings.

Thailand's largest swimming pool

Sure, the beaches in Thailand are some of the best in the world. But sometimes you just want to relax poolside, and Sofitel Krabi's got you covered. Located about 30 minutes from Krabi town, the resort's lagoon-style pool is the largest in Thailand at over 75,000 square feet. The pool also has a section just for kids, a swim-up bar and direct access via a private entrance for select ground floor suites, which allows guests to swim to the main pool from their terrace.

Dining on Koh Mook

Dashing around islands and partaking in ocean activities will work up an appetite. When hunger strikes while you're on a day excursion, head to the Sivalai Beach Resort restaurant on Koh Mook. The food here is just as incredible as the dining room's ocean views. Koh Mook is also home to the Emerald Cave, on the other side of the island.

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5 Free agent running backs Eagles should try to sign

There are some very intriguing names on the running back free agent list aside from Le'Veon Bell.

EVAN MACY
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The Eagles still have six running backs on their roster, Darren Sproles (signed for one last season), Ryan Mathews (who can be cut to save $3 million in cap space), Wendell Smallwood, Byron Marshall, Kenjon Barner and Terrell Watson.

There will be lots of competition in training camp for reps and 53-man roster spots at the RB position, and the possibility exists that Philly could draft Leonard Fournette or Dalvin Cook in the first round. There also seems to be no clear No. 1 at the position. Here are five free agent options open to the Eagles if they cut Mathews loose.

1 Latavius Murray (25-years-old, 788 yards, 12 TD)

Murray is the favorite simply because of his offseason antics, working out with Carson Wentz and Nelson Agholor in California last week. He would be a great fit in Philly, using speed and power and relative youth to help lead the Eagles in the absence of a true top back. Sportac says Murray is worth around $6 million per season.

2 Rashad Jennings (31-years-old, 593 yards, 3 TD)

Jennings is a name Eagles fans know from his days with the Giants. He's a little older than you'd want for a top running back, but if Mathews and the Eagles part ways he could be a good change of pace back as well as a mentor to youngsters Smallwood, Barner and Marshall.

3 Christine Michael (26-years-old, 583 yards, 7 TD)

Michael is another familiar name from the NFC East but has bopped around of late. He has shown spurts of fantastic play with dazzling speed and is a younger free agent.

4 Jacquizz Rodgers (27-years-old, 560 yards, 2 TD)

Rodgers was injured during parts of 2016 and has proven he can be a workhorse when he's healthy. He is also a good receiver.

5 Eddie Lacy (26-years-old, 360 yards before injury)

Lacy will in all likelihood return to the Packers — they have his exclusive rights until early March. But if they decide to move on from the oft-injured power back, the Eagles would be remiss if they didn't take a stab at signing him.

At 6-foot-3 and 230 pounds, Latavius Murray is a unique specimen at running back. GETTY IMAGES

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Sixers say Embiid is doubtful for next two games, Noel rumors emerge

Before the nine-day All-Star break, a stretch during which many thought the Sixers would get healthier, head coach Brett Brown said he expected Joel Embiid back against the Wizards when the second half begins Friday.

But despite him practicing Wednesday, Embiid is listed as doubtful for games Friday and Saturday this weekend.

Missing both games, Friday at home against Washington and then Saturday in New York, would mean Embiid has missed 13 straight games.

Ben Simmons has a CT scan scheduled for Thursday in New York, as was mentioned by the Sixers prior to the break. The result of the scan will inform Philly what the next step should be, and whether or not he'll be shut down for the entire season.

Jahlil Okafor has sure been yanked around quite a bit. GETTY IMAGES

Could Noel be on the move?

The deadline is fast approaching and Jahlil Okafor is still a Sixer.

Is it time for the team to give up and try something different? The Vertical's Adrian Wojnarowski says the team is starting to consider moving another young big man, Nerlens Noel.

"If they can't get a deal for Okafor done before the deadline, I'm told they'll start — there are still teams checking on Noel, re-engaging on him," the NBA insider said on his podcast. "What complicates it for Noel is that he's a restricted free agent, and teams want to know, 'What is it going to cost us to re-sign him?' And it's going to be a big number."

Noel is a more desirable piece, though he is two years older and obviously not under team control for much longer. He is a true rim protector and an athletic, defensive-minded player who doesn't need the ball to have an impact in the game. He brings teams like the Clippers into the mix. The Celtics would likely be interested in his services, too. EVAN MACY

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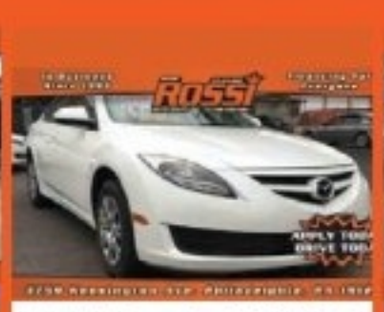
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La Salle trying to put end to funk, add to NCAA résumé

The Explorers looked like a good bet to be dancing as recently as a month ago.

JEFF MCMENAMIN
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La Salle (14-12, 8-7) still owns the second-best record in the Big 5 this season, but things have been anything but celebratory recently for the Explorers with March just around the corner.

The Explorers had gained a lot of momentum to start the season, going 11-5 and looking like a team destined for the NCAA Tournament. They've gone 3-7 since.

With only three games remaining in the regular season, La Salle can only hope for a high seeding in the A-10 Tournament to give themselves a chance to punch their ticket into the big dance. That can only happen if the team can stay healthy.

"When we're healthy, we're good, and we're not as good when we're not healthy, like most teams," Explorers coach John Giannini said. "You can theorize: Is it offense or is it defense, is it confidence? No. … [Having injuries] affects us. You'd like to say 'next man up,' but that's not easy for a lot of teams, for the majority of teams."

Junior B.J. Johnson (17.7 points, 6.2 rebounds), a Syracuse transfer, and sophomore Pookie Powell (13.2 points, 4.4 rebounds, 3.4 assists) have both missed time for the Explorers in their recent funk. Now back to full strength, the team hopes to return to its early-season form.

Rhode Island's (18-9,10-5) stifling defense got the better of the Explorers Tuesday night in a 67-56 loss, but coach Giannini thinks it was the type of team La Salle needed to play at this point in the season to prepare them down the stretch.

"I feel good. I feel like this game will make us better," Giannini said. "I mean, when you play against a team like [Rhode Island], believe it or not, it makes you better."

The Explorers will head to UMass to face the Minutemen (13-14, 3-11) on Sunday before finishing the season at St. Louis (9-18, 4-10) and home against Fordham (12-15, 6-8) next week. Now sixth place in the A-10 standings, La Salle could finish the season in third place in the A-10 depending on how things shake out.

"We're very concerned about our seeding," Giannini said. "You look at the standings and what you have to do in the next game. And after that, you do the process over again."

Aside from Villanova, La Salle is Philly's next best chance to get into March Madness. GETTY IMAGES

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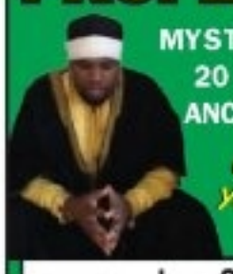

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ITEMS WANTED

CASH FOR DIABETES TEST STRIPS
Up to $40/box!
Payment made SAME-Day We Receive Your Strips!
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www.CashForYourTestStrips.com

metroCLASSIFIEDS To place an ad call 866-900-9473

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1 Bed/Basement efficiency on 2nd and Godfrey (Olney Section) going for $800/mo includes water/heat/electiric. CALL LUCY #267-608-3620

1 Bed/Basement efficiency on 2nd and Godfrey (Olney Section) going for $800/mo includes water/heat/electric.
Call Lucy #267-608-3620

$$ CASH PAID $$
BUYING NICOTINE PATCHES / GUM and Diabetic Test Strips
We Pickup
215-395-7100

SERVICES

CA$H PAID
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ABSOLUTE TOP VALUE
MOST BRANDS ACCEPTED

PAY UP TO $50 PER BOX
WE PICK UP
Call James 610-453-2525

ENTERTAINMENT

SERVICES

MITCHELL TEST STRIPS INC
We buy Diabetic Test Strips
We pay the highest prices
We will pick up
— GUARANTEED —
CALL #215.820.4312

WE BUY DIABETIC TEST STRIPS CASH PAID
1802 E Allegheny Ave
215-425-7897

PLAY OUR NEWS QUIZ, WIN $100! (see page 2)

metro.us/games

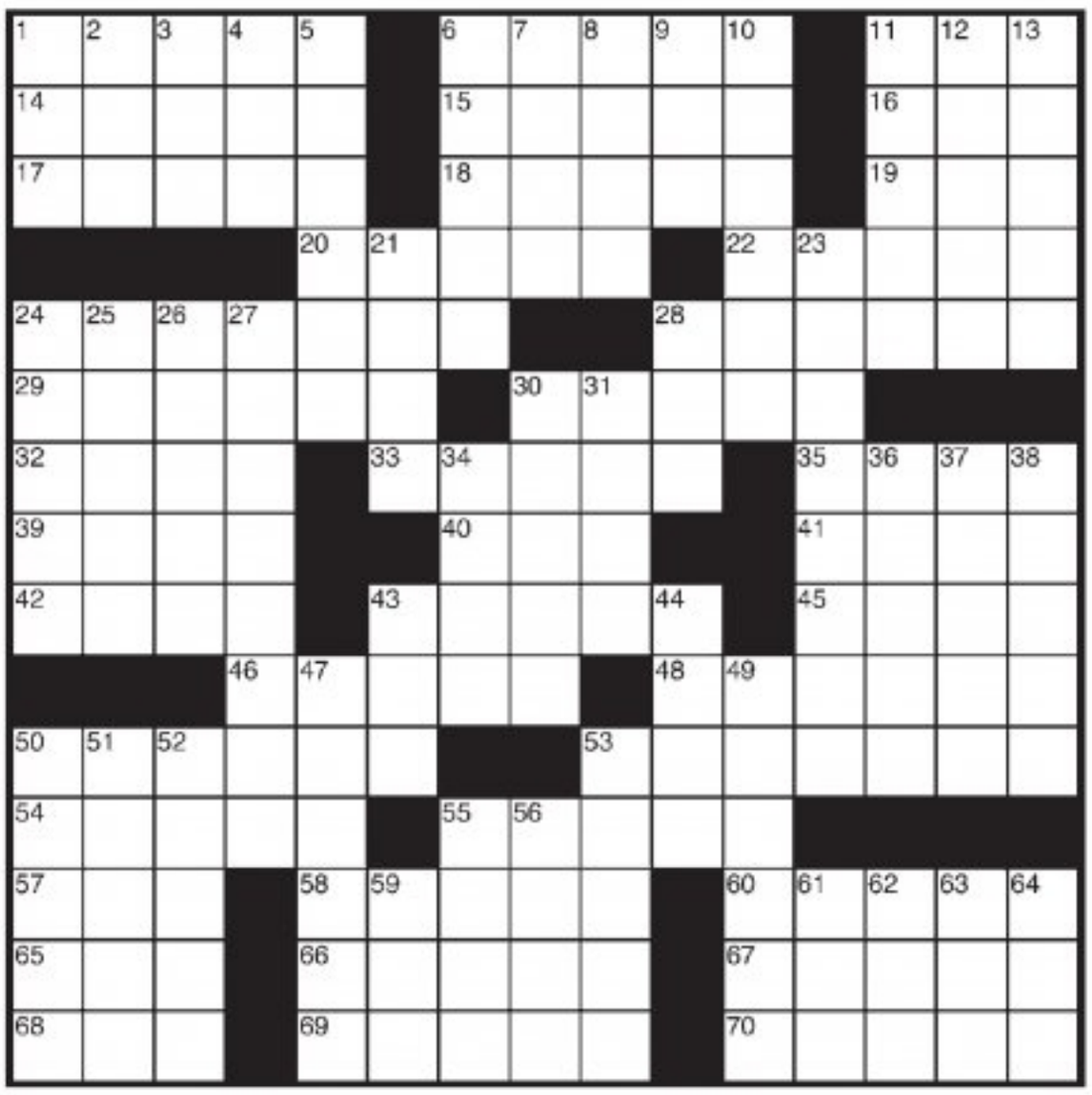
metro.us/crossword

Across

1 Quaffs for tars
6 Earl "--" Hines
11 Mil. rank
14 He tried to beat the Bushes
15 Ess moldings
16 Cassius Clay
17 Mammoth dispatcher
18 Old Norse poems
19 Sixth notes
20 Vexed
22 Pitch-black
24 Shows up
28 Caterpillar feet?
29 Like moccasins
30 Dork
32 -- -majeste
33 "Pal Joey" author
35 Sita's husband, in myth
39 NFL broadcaster
40 Cato's hello
41 With, to Henri
42 Balance
43 Razorbacks
45 By oneself
46 Metal shackles
48 More yucky
50 Beaming
53 Travel will do it
54 Toes the line
55 Come to terms
57 RV haven
58 Ho Chi Minh city
60 Vexes
65 Always, to Keats
66 Singer -- John
67 Blue jay topper
68 Common ID
69 Offend the nostrils
70 Helena rival

Down

1 Location technique: abbr.
2 Standing, slangily
3 Miners dig it
4 -- -- few rounds
5 Make a big effort
6 Branches
7 Feverish chill
8 Lean toward
9 Start of a bray
10 Promise
11 Kind of lily
12 Sporty fabric
13 Tallies
21 Give a fresh look
23 Kearney's place
24 Better trained
25 Ms. Witherspoon
26 Says hoarsely
27 Find the mug shot
28 Kind of towel or party
30 Geena or Bette
31 Brown bird
34 Goldie of "Laugh-In"
36 Shun
37 Rumpus
38 Oak, once
43 Earth's star
44 Blarney Stone locale
47 Marsh reeds
49 Strong-arm
50 Kids around
51 Woodwind instruments
52 Pine
53 Cliff's edge
55 Debate side
56 Thug
59 Elev.
61 Form 1040 processors
62 Give the OK
63 Flight dir.
64 Sault -- Marie



metro.us/sudoku

easy

4							5	
		7			8	4	9	1
	3	6			5			8
	4			6				
8		1				2		5
				5			3	
2			7			6	1	
9	1	8	2			5		
	6							2

hard

		8	1	5				2
	2				3		5	8
9			8				6	
	8	2			5		9	
				1				
	6		2			8	1	
	5				2			1
8	4		3				2	
2				9	4	3		

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries What you do for others doesn't need to be broadcast. Let your actions speak for you. Opportunity will be yours if you do what's right. Fair play will win favors.

Taurus Don't get involved in the personal affairs of others. Meddling on your part will turn out to be costly. Stay focused on what you can do to make things better.

Gemini Think big, but be reasonable. Your dreams will spark ideas that push you to make a difference. Improving your efficiency will lead to a new beginning.

Cancer Don't take on too much or trust someone to do things for you. The realization that your future depends on your actions will help you move forward.

Leo You can learn much from people of different backgrounds. Traveling and taking part in the pursuits of children and loved ones will be inspiring.

Virgo You must realistically look at your life and how you live it. If you have taken on too much, you need to ask for help or cut back.

Libra Your true feelings should be expressed if you want to bring about the changes required to ensure happiness and satisfaction in the future. Don't live a lie.

Scorpio Keep your emotions in check. If you are too revealing, someone will take advantage of your vulnerability. Make perfection and precision your goal, and signature.

Sagittarius Stay on track. You'll be easily distracted by what others say or do. Choose to do your own thing and set goals that will help you get ahead.

Capricorn Follow your instincts. Problems when dealing with foreigners, institutions or authority figures will arise if you travel or get involved with unpredictable people.

Aquarius If you reconnect with people you have worked with in the past, you will form a new alliance that will bring everyone involved greater opportunity.

Pisces Take care of business and avoid complaints. You can't please everyone, but as long as you don't leave anything unfinished, your conscience will be clear. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

H	A	S	T	E	■	G	O	O	P	■	E	M	M	A
A	S	P	E	N	■	A	C	L	U	■	L	O	I	N
T	I	R	E	D	■	I	T	E	R	■	P	U	N	K
H	A	I	■	U	P	T	O	S	C	R	A	T	C	H
A	N	G	O	R	A	S	■	■	H	U	S	H	E	S
■	■	■	V	O	L	■	P	R	A	D	O	■	■	■
P	A	V	E	S	■	M	O	O	S	E	■	B	B	B
E	M	I	R	■	M	O	N	T	E	■	L	U	A	U
W	O	N	■	W	A	R	D	S	■	M	U	S	S	Y
■	■	■	F	A	C	E	S	■	E	E	L	■	■	■
A	P	P	A	L	L	■	■	S	W	A	L	L	O	W
M	A	R	B	L	E	C	A	K	E	S	■	A	N	A
A	N	I	L	■	I	O	W	A	■	L	E	G	I	T
N	I	C	E	■	S	T	E	T	■	E	L	E	C	T
A	C	E	D	■	H	Y	D	E	■	S	I	R	E	S

Can't wait until tomorrow to check your answers? Visit **metro.us**

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH
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Noon - 5pm

We Restock for Saturday!

GREAT MERCHANDISE! UP TO 80% OFF!

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SAVE BIG $$$

up to **80% OFF!**

As is-No Holds or Layaways

Bring a truck or van. Everything is take-with or must be picked up within 48 hours of the sale. Some assembly required. Don't forget your rope and blankets! Everything sold "As-Is". All sales are final. Images are for illustration purposes only.

Carter Black 7 Piece Dining Set
sale $499
Slash ~~$299~~
Final $195

Reclining Sofas starting at $395

Recliners starting at $195

Chairs starting at $195

Dining & Pub Chairs starting at $25

Dining Tables starting at $75

Darcy Cafe Sectional
sale $1999
Slash ~~$995~~
Final $695

LIMITED QUANTITIES!

3 Pack Living Room Tables
Coffee table and two matching end tables. While supplies last!
sale $499
Slash ~~$289~~
Final $195

AMISH DINING FLOOR SAMPLE SALE!

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Authentic, handmade Amish product. EVERYTHING MUST GO!

Side Chairs starting at $195

Tables starting at $595

Lulu Twin Youth Bedroom Collection
Sweet and classic white finish. Twin over twin bunkbed. Includes ladder!

Nightstand	Chest	Dresser	Mirror	Twin Over Twin Bunkbed
sale $299	sale $399	sale $599	sale $149	sale $699
Slash ~~$175~~	Slash ~~$245~~	Slash ~~$345~~	Slash ~~$95~~	Slash ~~$445~~
Final $95	Final $185	Final $215	Final $55	Final $295

Emma Upholstered Bed

Twin Bed	Full Bed	Queen Bed	King Bed
sale $439	sale $519	sale $619	sale $699
Slash ~~$185~~	Slash ~~$245~~	Slash ~~$295~~	Slash ~~$345~~
Final $95	Final $125	Final $145	Final $175

30% OFF AMISH DINING PURCHASE OF $595 OR MORE

*Valid at Mealey's Outlet only. Valid on any Amish dining purchase of $595 or more. Not valid with other offers. One coupon per household. No cash value. Must cut and present coupon at time of purchase. Only valid February 24th & 25th, 2017. Styles will vary. While supplies last.

$100 OFF QUEEN MATTRESS SET

*Valid at Mealey's Outlet only. Valid on a queen mattress set purchase. Not valid with other offers. One coupon per household. No cash value. Must cut and present coupon at time of purchase. Only valid 2/24/2017 & 2/25/2017. Styles may vary. While supplies last.

Beds starting at $145

Sofas starting at $295

Mattress MADNESS!

2016 DISCONTINUED & FLOOR SAMPLE BLOWOUT!

FIRM, PLUSH AND PILLOWTOP

Twin Sets from $195

Queen Firm Sets from $295

Queen Plush Sets from $395

Queen Memory Foam Sets from $495

Queen Super Pillow Top Sets from $595

Summer Breeze Queen Poster Bed
sale $1490
Slash ~~$599~~
Final $388

Julson Sofa
Available in Ebony, Dune, and Burgundy
sale $699
Slash ~~$495~~
Final $395

1001 New Ford Mill Road - Morrisville, PA 19067 - mealeysfurniture.com - (215) 736-9800

DIRECTIONS VIA ROUTE 1

From PA: Take Route 1 North to the Route 13 South exit. **From NJ:** Take Route 1 South to the Route 13 South exit. **Then:** Take Route 13 South to the Tyburn Road East exit. The first traffic light is New Ford Mill Road, make a right. Outlet is 3/4 of a mile down the road on the left.

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